

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented) A biologically active conjugate derivative having the following general formula (I)



where:

M represents the corresponding radical of a biologically active molecule selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, and polypeptides;

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro,

which is capable of being cleaved by chemical treatment to leave Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to M.

2. (original) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a polymer with a molecular weight in the range of 2 Kd to 50 Kd.

3. (original) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said polymer is PEG.

4. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a linear polymer.

5. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 2 characterised in that said functionalizing entity FE is a branched polymer.

6. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterised in that said biologically active molecule is a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin, lysozyme, interferon, erythropoietin, G-CSF, and GH.

7. (currently amended) A method for identifying linkage sites of conjugation of the functionalizing entity FE selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments, on the biologically active drug conjugate derivative of claim 1, along the biologically active molecule M, which method comprises:

- (a) cleaving a specific chemical cleavage of the linking arm L comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro;[[.]]
- (b) releasing after removing the functionalizing entity and separating FE by classical methods, to leave; and
- (c) detecting Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to the biologically active molecule M to identify said linkage sites.

8. (currently amended) An intermediate compound, for the preparation of the biologically active conjugate of claim 1, having the following general formula (II)



where:

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.

9. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is an interferon.

10. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 9 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is interferon α-2b.

11. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said biologically active molecule is selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, G-CSF, and GH.

12. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said linking arm is Met-Nle.

13. (previously presented) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterized in that said linking arm is Met- $\beta$ Ala.

Kindly enter the following new claims.

14. (new) A biologically active conjugate derivative FE – L – M, wherein M represents the corresponding radical of a biologically active molecule which is an interferon, FE represents a functionalizing entity which is PEG, and L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met- $\beta$ Ala, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.

15. (new) An intermediate compound FE – L for the preparation of a biologically active conjugate, wherein FE represents a functionalizing entity which is PEG and L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met- $\beta$ Ala, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro.